



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

The President's 2016 Budget is designed to bring middle class economics into the 21st Century. This Budget shows what we can do if we invest in America's future and commit to an economy that rewards hard work, generates rising incomes, and allows everyone to share in the prosperity of a growing America. It lays out a strategy to strengthen our middle class and help America's hard-working families get ahead in a time of relentless economic and technological change. And it makes the critical investments needed to accelerate and sustain economic growth in the long run, including in research, education, training, and infrastructure.

These proposals will help working families feel more secure with paychecks that go further, help American workers upgrade their skills so they can compete for higher-paying jobs, and help create the conditions for our businesses to keep generating good new jobs for our workers to fill, while also fulfilling our most basic responsibility to keep Americans safe. We will make these investments, and end the harmful spending cuts known as sequestration, by cutting inefficient spending and reforming our broken tax code to make sure everyone pays their fair share. We can do all this while also putting our Nation on a more sustainable fiscal path. The Budget achieves about \$1.8 trillion in deficit reduction, primarily from reforms to health programs, our tax code, and immigration.

The mission of the Department of the Interior (Interior) is to protect and manage the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provide scientific and other vital information about those resources; and honor the Nation's trust responsibilities and special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities. To support this mission, the budget provides \$13.2 billion in current discretionary funding for the Department, including \$200 million available in the event of catastrophic fires.

This funding level will allow historic investments in Indian Country to support community development and begin the needed transformation of the Indian education system; in our National parks and public lands for the next generation of Americans to learn about our diverse cultures and landscapes; and, in our energy resources to support the Administration's all-of-the-above energy policy. These important investments will help create jobs and drive economic activity across the country.

Funding Highlights:

- The President's FY 2016 Budget provides \$13.2 billion in current discretionary funding for the Department of the Interior, reflecting a commitment to protect important national landscapes, responsibly manage energy development on public lands and waters, and support Federal trust responsibilities to Native American Tribes and communities. This includes:
 - Launching a historic effort to revitalize the Nation's parks and public lands for the next century in celebration of the National Park Service Centennial;
 - Proposing \$900 million a year for programs funded from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to bolster land conservation, sportsmen's access, and recreation across the nation, with full dedicated funding beginning in 2017.
 - Backing tribal priorities in Indian Country, including a \$1 billion investment to transform Indian schools and education, as well as full and permanent funding for contract support costs to support self-determination;
 - Implementing the President's Climate Action Plan by developing renewable energy on public lands and waters; preparing communities for the impacts of climate change through programs modeled after Hurricane Sandy recovery; investing in science to support decision-making in natural resource management; and
 - Investing in the safety, reliability and efficiency of America's water infrastructure and in conservation, reuse, and applied science to address the nation's water supply challenges, especially in the arid West.

Reforms:

- Calls for a shift in wildfire funding to provide stable funding for wildfire suppression, allowing for proactive fuels management and restoration, with the flexibility to fund the most severe fires to protect communities and ecosystems;
- Generates \$5.6 billion in savings over 10 years through legislative reform proposals, including oil and gas management reforms to encourage diligent development of Federal energy resources while improving the return to taxpayers from royalty reforms;
- Proposes changes to the Abandoned Mine Lands program and health and pension coverage for mineworkers, to help revitalize communities impacted by the continuing legacy of abandoned mine lands and strengthen the health and retirement security of coal miners and their families whose employers no longer contribute to their plans, as part of the President's POWER+ Plan.

Promotes the Preservation and Protection of America's Natural, Cultural Resources

Launches Historic Effort to Revitalize National Parks for the Next Century. In 2016, the National Park Service will celebrate 100 years of preserving and sharing America's natural, cultural and historic treasures. The budget will make investments to connect a new generation to "America's Best Idea" and to care for and maintain our national parks for the next 100 years. The budget includes \$859.1 million in mandatory (\$300 million) and discretionary (\$559.1 million) funding in 2016 to allow the National Park Service to make targeted, measurable upgrades over the next ten years to all of its highest priority, non-transportation assets, restoring and maintaining them in good condition. The budget also proposes \$150 million in discretionary and mandatory funding for a Centennial Challenge matching program to leverage private donations to parks, and another \$100 million for a Public Lands Centennial Fund that competitively awards funds to Federal land management agencies for signature projects and programs.

Commemorates Lessons of America's Civil Rights History. To meaningfully mark the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, the 2016 budget provides \$50 million to restore and highlight key sites across the country, which tell the story of the struggle for civil rights. The initiative would invest in specific national park sites associated with the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, such as the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, and Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site. State, local and tribal governments may also apply for grants to document and preserve stories and other sites related to the Civil Rights Movement.

Creates Jobs Through Conservation and Recreation. Investments in America's great outdoors create millions of jobs and spur billions of dollars in national economic activity through outdoor recreation and tourism. On the 50th anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act, the budget provides full funding for LWCF programs at Interior and the Department of Agriculture. The innovative, highly successful program reinvests royalties from offshore oil and gas activities into public lands across the nation. Starting in 2016, the budget would invest \$900 million annually into conservation and recreation projects, equal to the amount of receipts deposited in the LWCF each year. In 2016, the budget proposes a total of \$400 million in discretionary funding and \$500 million in mandatory funding for LWCF programs. These investments will conserve lands in or near national parks, refuges, forests and other public lands, including landscapes identified for collaborative, strategic conservation, and they also enable access to lands for sportsmen and hunters, protect historic battlefields and provide grants to states for recreation and conservation projects on non-Federal lands.

Revitalizes Our Important Landscapes. The budget continues efforts to manage and promote the sustainability and resilience of ecosystems on a landscape scale, such as the California Bay-Delta, the Everglades, the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay and the Gulf Coast. The request includes \$78 million to protect and restore the American West's vast sage steppe landscape which supports abundant wildlife and significant economic activity, including recreation, ranching and energy development. This investment supports the unprecedented federal and state collaboration to conserve the imperiled sagebrush landscape in the face of threats from fire, invasive species, expanding development and habitat fragmentation. The budget also invests in

landscape scale efforts to address the complex natural resource issues facing the Arctic. The budget proposes \$1.1 billion in research and development investments across the Department to improve scientific understanding related to resource management and climate impacts, and expand public access to this important information.

Builds New Opportunity in Communities Impacted by Abandoned Mine Lands and Ensures the Health and Retirement Security of Coal Miners and their Families. In order to address the continuing legacy of abandoned mine lands (AML) on the health, safety, environment and economic opportunity of communities, the budget makes available \$1 billion over five years, to States and tribes, as part of the President's POWER+ Plan. Funding would come from currently unappropriated balances of the AML Trust Fund, administered by the Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). The AML funding would be used to target reclamation of mine land sites and associated polluted waters in a manner that promotes sustainable redevelopment in economically distressed coalfield communities. Additionally, the budget includes unprecedented investments in the health and retirement security of mineworkers and their families.

Implementing the President's Climate Action Plan

Prepares Communities for Challenges of a Changing Climate. As manager of about 20 percent of the land area of the United States and a partner with tribal, state, local and territorial government land managers, the Interior Department works to address the challenges of a changing climate as an integral part of its mission. As part of the Administration's effort to better understand and prepare for the impacts of a changing climate, the budget includes funding to build communities and ecosystems that are more resilient to changing stressors, including flooding, sea level rise, and drought. The budget builds on the Hurricane Sandy competitive grant approach with targeted investments in natural systems to address climate change vulnerabilities such as increased flooding or drought, and to support resilience in tribal communities and insular areas.

Safeguards Communities and Ecosystems from Wildfire Damage. Population growth near forests and rangelands, past management practices and a changing climate have increased wildfire risk and resulting costs. The budget calls for a new funding framework for wildland fire suppression, similar to how the costs for other natural disasters are met. The initiative proposes base level funding of 70 percent of the 10-year average for suppression costs within the discretionary budget and an additional \$200 million through a discretionary cap adjustment, available in the event of the most severe fire activity, which comprises only one percent of the fires but 30 percent of the costs. This framework would allow for a balanced suppression and proactive fuels management and restoration program, with flexibility to accommodate peak fire seasons, but not at the cost of other Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture missions or adding to the deficit.

Ensures Sustainable and Secure Water Supplies. The budget continues investment in the Department's WaterSMART program, which supports water conservation initiatives and technological breakthroughs that promote water reuse, recycling and conservation, in partnership with states, tribes, and other partners. The budget also invests in the safety, reliability, efficiency and ecological sustainability of our water infrastructure to ensure that millions of customers

continue to receive the water and power that are the foundation of a healthy economy, especially in the arid West. The budget provides robust funding for Indian water rights settlements and program implementation to support tribes in resolving water rights claims, developing water sharing agreements, and supporting sustainable water management, and provides resources to protect and restore fragile ecosystems, such as California's Bay-Delta and the San Joaquin River.

Powering our Future through Balanced Energy Development

Builds a Clean Energy Infrastructure. To enhance national energy security and create jobs in new industries, the budget invests in renewable energy development programs, providing about \$100 million to review and permit renewable energy projects on public lands and in offshore waters. Under the President's Climate Action Plan, these funds will allow Interior to continue progress toward its goal of permitting 20 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity and related transmission infrastructure by 2020.

Supports Responsible Development of the Nation's Oil and Gas Resources. The budget provides support for onshore energy permitting and oversight on federal lands, with the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) oil and gas program receiving a 20 percent increase in funding, compared to the 2015 enacted level. Coupled with implementation of a new automated permitting system that eliminates paper applications, the budget will facilitate improved responsiveness to permit requests while strengthening onshore inspection capabilities. BLM's costs would be partially offset through new inspection fees totaling \$48 million in 2016, requiring the onshore industry to share in the cost of managing the program from which it benefits, just as the offshore industry currently does.

The budget also supports continued reforms to strengthen oversight of industry operations following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, with an additional emphasis on risk management. This includes \$170.9 million for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and \$204.7 million for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, which share responsibility for overseeing development of oil and gas resources on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Invests in Our Future

Strengthens Tribal Nations. The President's budget maintains the Administration's strong support for the principle of tribal self-determination and strengthening tribal communities across Indian Country. This commitment is reflected in a proposed 12 percent increase for the Bureau of Indian Affairs over the 2015 enacted level. The budget calls for full funding for contract support costs that Tribes incur from managing federal programs, complemented by a proposal to secure mandatory funding in future years. The budget provides significant increases across a wide range of federal programs that serve Tribes; proposes a new "one-stop" approach to improve and coordinate access to federal programs and resources; supports sustainable stewardship of land, water, and other natural resources; provides funds for communities to plan, prepare, and respond to the impacts of climate change; and establishes an Indian Energy Service Center to facilitate tribal energy development.

Creates Opportunities for Native Youth. The budget includes key investments to support the launch of Generation Indigenous, an initiative focused on addressing barriers to success for American Indian and Alaska Native children and teenagers. In addition to Interior, multiple agencies -- including Education, Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Labor and Justice -- are working collaboratively with Tribes on new and increased investments to implement education reforms and address issues facing Native youth. The budget provides \$1 billion for Interior to invest in Indian education to support a comprehensive transformation of the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). This multi-year process will transform the BIE into an organization that serves as a capacity builder and service provider to support tribes in educating their youth and delivers a world-class and culturally appropriate education across Indian Country.

Engages the Next Generation. The future of our natural, cultural and historic heritage depends on the next generation of active stewards. Interior's unique assets provide an unparalleled opportunity to connect the next generation to the great outdoors and our nation's rich history. The budget includes \$107.2 million for youth programs across the Department, a \$45.5 million increase from the 2015 enacted level.

Improves Oversight and Use of Federal Dollars

Implements Department-wide Management Reforms. Interior has embarked on several multi-year efforts to reduce Interior's nation-wide footprint, and leverage technology to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its IT infrastructure and financial reporting capabilities. The budget includes \$6.4 million to consolidate building space to reduce taxpayer costs for privately leased space. The budget continues to optimize the agency-wide Financial and Business Management System with targeted investments to improve the quality and transparency of Federal spending information for the public, as envisioned in the DATA Act. Also underway is the fourth year of Interior's IT Transformation, with \$5 million in the budget for enhancements in Telecommunications capacity and cloud access to achieve Department-wide efficiencies and strengthen detection of security vulnerabilities and potential intrusions.

Reforms Federal Oil and Gas Management. Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue collected over \$10 billion in 2014 from fees, royalties and other payments related to oil and gas development on public lands and waters. A number of studies by the Government Accountability Office and Interior's Inspector General have found taxpayers could earn a better return through policy changes and more rigorous oversight. The budget proposes a package of legislative reforms to bolster administrative actions focused on advancing royalty reforms, encouraging diligent development of oil and gas leases, and improving revenue collection processes. The Administration is also committed to ensuring American taxpayers receive a fair return from the sale of public resources and benefit from the development of offshore energy resources owned by all Americans. The budget proposes to work with Congress to redirect the distribution of expanded revenue payments expected to start in 2018 for Gulf of Mexico oil and gas leases to programs with broad natural resource, watershed and conservation benefits for the entire Nation, help the Federal Government fulfill its role of being a good neighbor to local communities, and support other national priorities. Collectively, these and other proposed

revenue and savings proposals would save the Treasury \$5.6 billion over ten years.

Eliminates Wasteful Spending, Provides Fair Return to Taxpayers. To increase safety and minimize environmental impacts, the budget proposes a fee on hardrock mining, with receipts used by States, Tribes and Federal agencies to restore the most hazardous sites – similar to how coal Abandoned Mine Lands funds are used. To ensure taxpayers receive a fair return from mineral development on public lands, the budget proposes a royalty on select hardrock minerals – such as silver, gold and copper – and terminating unwarranted payments to coal producing States and Tribes that no longer need funds to clean up abandoned coal mines.